

BLAKE HOUSE  
PORT WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN

*Organized for*

H.A.B.S. No Wis:125

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• PHOTOGRAPHS •

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT No 28

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Building Survey  
Alexander C. Guth • District Officer  
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

THE BLAKE HOUSE  
Port Washington, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

Owner. Blake Family

Date of Erection. 1845

Architect. Not known

Builder. Not known

Present Condition. Good

TORN DOWN

Number of Stories. Two

Materials of Construction. Brick base, wood siding, shingle roof. Brick chimneys.

Other Existing Records. None known

Additional Data. The Blake Homestead is located at 511 Grand Avenue in the city of Port Washington, Wisconsin. It was built in 1845 by one whose name has been forgotten by this time. The house was first occupied by one named Lyon Silvermann. It was acquired by Barnum Blake in 1862. Since that time it has been continuously in the hands of the Blake family, the present tenant (since 1900) being a granddaughter of the first Blake.

The house represents an interesting rendering in rather a pure but local type of Colonial work. By local is meant that it has all the characteristics of the local builder. Generally speaking a local contractor always had his own bag of tricks and he employed them whenever he built the houses in the community. The Blake house is no exception. The delicately moulded pilasters, of which there are many at the house, have all been

ornamented with a peculiar type of surface decoration which makes one feel that the jig saw was already being used when this house was erected. This same ornament just referred to is what might be termed "local color", because it appears in other work in the community.

An interesting feature of the house is the side balcony with the triple head opening finished off with extremely flat arches most graceful in design.

The plan is characteristic of another day in that there was a parlor, a sitting room, a library, all opening off one another. Now these have all been changed to one large room.

The trim ~~of~~ the inside doors and windows is about as unusual as can be found in the State. It is highly ornamental and peculiar in profile. Well-designed, though ~~it is~~ it is over-elaborate and over-eize for this particular house.

Of all the houses in this locality that were the product of this early day builder, this one stands out preeminently from the others. Perched on a hill or high terrace, it assumes a commanding position and holds its own with many of the newer and more modern ~~of its~~ neighbors.

ALEXANDER C. GUTH  
District Officer.

(Revised by HABS Headquarters,  
September 9, 1935.)

*Revised 1936, H.C.F.*